

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077559

CODEL FINDLEY

FOL REPEAT STATE 077559 SENT ACTION GENEVA JIDDA
DAMASCUS LONDON INFO CAIRO KUWAIT SANAA ALGIERS
APR 17

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077559

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CASC, YS, UK

SUBJECT: AMCITS DETAINED IN ADEN - CODEL FINDLEY

REFS: (A) GENEVA 2218 (B) STATE 065734 (NOTAL)

1. FOR GENEVA: DESPITE REPEATED BRITISH QUERIES, THERE
HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM PDRY REGARDING VINCENT TORHAN.
LIKEWISE, FRANKLIN'S PARENTS APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY TO PDRY
PRESIDENT ALI FOR SON'S RELEASE HAS NOT BEEN ACTED UPON.
HOWEVER, PDRY HAS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO INTEREST BY
REPRESENTATIVE PAUL FINDLEY OF ILLINOIS IN VISITING ADEN
ON BEHALF OF JAILED CONSTITUENT FRANKLIN. CABLE ON
FINDLEY'S MEETING WITH PDRY PERMREP ON MARCH 27 (REF B)
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY NOW PLANS VISIT
TO ADEN FIRST WEEK IN MAY. HE PLANS INQUIRE ABOUT TORHAN
AND MISSING AMERICAN ROBERT A. KOPP. SUGGEST YOU INFORM
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ICRC OF THIS AND SAY WE WELCOME ICRC REP TRAVEL TO ADEN

BUT WOULD PREFER HE TIME VISIT SUFFICIENTLY AFTER CONGRESSMAN'S TO ENABLE OUR BRIEFING ICRC ON RESULTS FINDLEY VISIT. ICRC SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED THAT IT NOW APPEARS THAT MISSING AMERICAN ROBERT A. KOPP, WHO LEFT OMAN IN EARLY JANUARY 1973 WITH THE INTENTION OF TRAVELLING TO SOCOTRA, MAY HAVE VISITED ADEN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ICRC'S INQUIRING ABOUT KOPP. FYI: INFO FROM BRITISH INDICATES PDRY MAY HAVE JAILED KOPP. END FYI.

2. FOR JIDDA: CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY MET WITH PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' IN NEW YORK, APRIL 11. ACCORDING TO THE CONGRESSMAN, MEETING WENT WELL. MINISTER WELCOMED CONGRESSMAN'S PLANNED VISIT AND SAID THAT PDRY WOULD HANDLE ALL ARRANGEMENTS. CONGRESSMAN'S TENTATIVE SCHEDULE CALLS FOR ARRIVING ADEN MAY 2, DEPARTING MAY 5. CONGRESSMAN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF AIDE, MICHAEL VAN DUSEN, WHO HAS PHD IN MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES AND SPEAKS SOME ARABIC. PURPOSE OF TRIP TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF FRANKLIN. HOWEVER, GIVEN PDRY'S ENCOURAGEMENT AND HIS OWN PERSONAL INTEREST IN PROMOTING US-ARAB RELATIONS, FINDLEY AWARE THAT DURING COURSE OF VISIT PDRY COULD RAISE BROADER ISSUES, INCLUDING HINTS AT SOME SORT OF PDRY-US DIALOGUE. WE HAVE GIVEN CONGRESSMAN NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON THIS SCORE AND EMPHASIZED THAT HE SHOULD ONLY STATE THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONVEY WHATEVER PDRY HAD TO SAY TO USG. YOU SHOULD INFORM SAG OF CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S PLANNED TRIP TO ADEN, EMPHASIZING THAT HE IS GOING THERE PURELY ON BEHALF OF HIS JAILED CONSTITUENT. YOU SHOULD ALSO MENTION THAT WISHING A CONFIRMATION OF PDRY'S ACCEPTANCE OF HIS VISIT, CONGRESSMAN CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' APRIL 11, WHILE MUTI' ATTENDING UNGA. DURING BRIEF MEETING MUTI' ASSURED CONGRESSMAN THAT WHILE IN ADEN HE WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FRANKLIN CASE WITH THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

3. FOR LONDON: WE BRIEFING BRITISH HERE RE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINDLEY TRIP. YOU MAY ALSO WISH INFORM THEM THAT CONGRESSMAN TENTATIVELY PLANS ARRIVE ADEN MAY 2 DEPARTING
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MAY 5. FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' TOLD FINDLEY THAT PDRY WOULD ARRANGE FOR LODGING AND PREPARE SCHEDULE. WE PRESUME THIS ALSO MEANS PDRY WILL MEET AT AIRPORT AND TAKE CARE OF ALL ARRANGEMENTS. AS NOTED ABOVE, FINDLEY PLANS ALSO RAISE SUBJECT OF TORHAN AND MISSING AMCIT ROBERT A. KOPP WITH PDRY AUTHORITIES WHILE IN ADEN.

4. FOR DAMASCUS: CONGRESSMAN TENTATIVELY PLANS ARRIVE

BEIRUT EARLY A.M. MAY 5 FROM ADEN. HE HAS FOR MANY YEARS
TAKEN SYMPATHETIC POSITION ON ARAB AFFAIRS. HE AND VAN
DUSEN WOULD LIKE TO SPEND MAY 5 IN DAMASCUS AND IF POSSIBLE
MEET WITH APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIALS, RETURNING TO
BEIRUT EVENING SAME DAY. BELIEVE VISIT, WHICH PURELY
FOR ORIENTATION, COULD BE USEFUL, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE
POST'S COMMENTS.

5. PDY HAS INDICATED SENSITIVITY TO FINDLEY ABOUT ANY
PUBLICITY BEING GIVEN TO HIS VISIT. CONGRESSMAN FEARS
PUBLICITY COULD JEOPARDIZE CHANCES HIS OBTAINING RELEASE
OF FRANKLIN. EXCEPT FOR JIDDA AND LONDON, CONGRESSMAN'S

TRAVEL TO ADEN SHOULD BE TREATED AS NOFORN. SHOULD
SYRIANS INQUIRE RE PURPOSE FINDLEY TRAVEL IN AREA,
THEY SHOULD BE TOLD IT FOR ORIENTATION.

6. WILL PROVIDE ETA'S, FLIGHT NUMBERS, ETC. AS SOON AS
AVAILABLE.

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